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Senate

The Senate met at 1:01 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable LAMAR ALEXANDER, a Senator from the State of Tennessee.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, who hears and answers prayers, teach us to pray. We confess that we don't know how to pray as we ought. Our desires are deep and our language too shallow. Lord, look beyond our words and see our hearts and souls. Hear our thoughts as we wait patiently for Your providence.

Inspire our lawmakers today with Your presence. As they labor for liberty, help them to find their highest joy in Your purpose and will.

Bless the staff members who provide the wind for the wings of our legislators. Surround these often unsung heroes and heroines with Your peace.

We pray in Your wonderful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable LAMAR ALEXANDER led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, June 25, 2005.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable LAMAR ALEXANDER, a Senator from the State of Tennessee, to perform the duties of the Chair.

TED STEVENS,
President pro tempore.

Mr. ALEXANDER thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

In my capacity as a Senator from Tennessee, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNIZING THE 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 207, the Americans with Disabilities Act resolution, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 207) recognizing and honoring the 15th anniversary of the enactment of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will be 30 minutes of debate equally divided between the majority leader and the Senator from Iowa or their designees.

The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Senators KENNEDY, HATCH, REID, CLINTON, MCCAIN,

DEWINE, JEFFORDS, MIKULSKI, LAUTENBERG, DOLE, DURBIN, LEVIN, LIEBERMAN, BOXER, REED, CHAFEE, SMITH, COLLINS, STABENOW, OBAMA, AKAKA, SALAZAR, DAYTON, BINGAMAN, WYDEN, BIDEN, ISAKSON, FEINGOLD, JOHNSON, NELSON of Florida, BROWNBACK, BURR, SNOWE, and PRYOR be added as cosponsors of the resolution.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, tomorrow, July 26, marks the 15th anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Observances and celebrations are being held and will be held all across the country. In fact, I attended three in Iowa over the weekend. There will be a big celebration tonight at the Kennedy Center where I look forward to introducing former President George Bush, the signer of the Americans with Disabilities Act, who will give the keynote address.

On this 15th anniversary, we celebrate one of the great landmark civil rights laws of the 20th century, a long overdue emancipation proclamation for people with disabilities. We also celebrate the men and women from all across America whose daily acts of heroism and protest and persistence and courage moved this law forward to passage 15 years ago.

In 1964, this country passed a civil rights bill. After much struggle, after the freedom riders and the marches in places such as Selma, AL, that are burned in our memories, we passed the Civil Rights Act of 1964 which closed a long, disgraceful chapter of segregation and discrimination, lack of equality of opportunity for Americans just based on race, mostly, sex, creed, and national origin.

I can remember coming home on leave from the military some time after that. I was with my brother Frank who had been totally deaf since early childhood. I had seen how he had been discriminated against all of his

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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